

August 2006

## NORTH ANNA POWER STATION

Dominion Nuclear North Anna has applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for an early site permit to determine whether the North Anna power station in Louisa County is suitable for the construction and operation of up to two additional nuclear reactors. If approved by the NRC, the early site permit would allow Dominion to reserve the site for as long as 20 years for the two proposed reactors, and possibly to undertake site preparation and preliminary construction activities.

### Consistency review

The Department of Environmental Quality is coordinating a state review to determine the suitability of the North Anna site and whether construction and operation of the additional reactors would be consistent with the requirements of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program. Virginia's coastal area includes Spotsylvania County, which borders Lake Anna and includes the North Anna River. Activities adjacent to the coastal area, such as those in Louisa County (which also borders the lake), are subject to review because they may affect resources or uses in the coastal area.

This consistency review evaluates issues such as management of wetlands, fisheries and coastal lands; air pollution and water pollution; and water withdrawal. It is focusing on the effect that Dominion's proposed water cooling method for the third reactor unit would have on water quality and quantity. DEQ has reviewed the air cooling method proposed for the fourth unit and has determined that it is consistent with the Virginia coastal program.

DEQ's Office of Environmental Impact Review coordinates the Commonwealth's review of federal consistency certifications; distributes documents to appropriate state agencies, planning districts and localities; and provides for public notice and input. Upon consideration of all comments, and in cooperation with other state agencies, DEQ prepares a single state response.

### Pending permit actions

DEQ also is drafting environmental permits that are separate from the consistency review and have different timetables for completion.

The first is a proposed renewal of Dominion's permit to discharge water from the North Anna power sta-

tion to Lake Anna. The part of Lake Anna that receives heated water from the existing cooling towers is considered a "waste heat treatment facility." Under Virginia law, this so-called "warm side" of the lake is not subject to state regulations for temperature because it is designed to cool the water. However, as the water cools and enters the "cold side," it is covered by the power station's water discharge permit to ensure that temperature requirements are met. The permit renewal is subject to approval by the State Water Control Board.

The second permit involves wetlands protection at a residential development on Lake Anna. This permit is unrelated to Dominion's water discharge permit, and it calls for different types natural resource protection measures. For example, the wetlands permit will include routine water quality monitoring to protect aquatic life and erosion controls to prevent sediment buildup in the lake.

In all cases, DEQ's permits require protection of human health and the environment. Dominion's water discharge permit is designed to ensure that Lake Anna properly cools water from the power station, and the development's wetlands permit will protect water quality and public uses in that area of the lake.

### Public comment

Virginia's consistency review includes a public comment period, scheduled for May 15 through September 8, 2006. DEQ is accepting comments on whether the proposed early site permit is consistent with Virginia's coastal program. Comments may be submitted by mail, fax or email to:

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DEQ will accept public comment on the discharge permit application at a later time.